REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 17, 2004. Additionally, Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the election without traverse of claims 1-15 in the Response to Election of Species Requirement filed July 5, 2005. As indicated by the Examiner, claims 16-20 were improperly selected with Species I and are being cancelled by this amendment. These claims are being reinstated in pending divisional application 11/186,990.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate whether the Formal Drawings filed October 21, 2003 are accepted.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-15 and 27-33 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 27-33 are hereby added, and claims 16-26 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-6 and 11-12 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner hold in abeyance such rewriting until the Examiner has had an opportunity to reconsider (and withdraw) the prior art rejection of the other claims.

Anticipation Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7-10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Enomoto et al. (US 6,727,932; hereinafter "Enomoto"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The current application claims priority from: (1) JP 2002-305515 filed October 21, 2002 and (2) JP 2002-312052 filed October 28, 2002. A certified English translation of each of these documents is included herein. Enomoto was not published until December 11, 2003, and its earliest effective filing date is June 2003. Thus, Enomoto et al. is effectively removed as a 102(e) reference.

New Claims

Claims 27-31 are hereby added. Claims 27-33 are fully supported *at least* by Figures 1 and 7 of the instant Application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-15 and 27-31 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 U.S. Appln. No. 10/688,934

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 55,154

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